DOCUMENT RESUME

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TITLE	Innovations in Detroit Head Start. [Videotape].
INSTITUTION	Merrill-Palmer Inst., Detroit, MI.
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AVAILABLE FROM	Merrill-Palmer Institute, Wayne State University, 71-A East Ferry Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202; Tel: 313-872-1790; Fax: 313-577-0995 (16-minute VHS video, $35, includes shipping and handling).
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DESCRIPTORS	Childhood Needs; Classroom Environment; *Educational Change; Parent School Relationship; Preschool Education; Preschool Teachers; *Staff Development; Teaching Methods; Time Factors (Learning)
IDENTIFIERS	Michigan (Detroit); *Project Head Start; *Reggio Emilia Approach

ABSTRACT

The Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood teaching is based on curriculum and teaching practices developed in the preschools of Reggio Emilia, Italy. This video highlights an ongoing Detroit, Michigan Head Start staff development project, inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach. The staff development program was launched in consultation with Reggio Children, and is sponsored by the Merrill-Palmer Institute of Wayne State University and the Head Start Division of the Detroit Human Services Department. The 16-minute video is organized around the principles of the Reggio Emilia approach, including focus on children's self expression through graphic representation, language, movement and music; teachers as partners in learning through children's interest and curiosity; expanding the environment to allow children to pursue interests, and the project approach, whereby children explore a topic over an extended period of time. The video focuses largely on the impact of the program on the teachers, and features their reflections concerning the Reggio principles and the teachers' experiences in adapting them to the Head Start program. The importance of time in children's learning, the role of the parent, and collaboration of the program's teachers are also highlighted. Also featured are vignettes of the children engaged in a variety of interesting classroom situations and the impressions of some of the parents with children in the program. (HTH)

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